

# DAIRY BIOSECURITY



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BIOSECURITY & CALIFORNIA DAIRIES

ANIMAL HEALTH & FOOD SAFETY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## BIOSECURITY & CALIFORNIA DAIRIES



## What is Biosecurity?

Biosecurity is a plan to keep your dairy—both animals and products—safe from infectious agents or harmful chemicals. Biosecurity is achieved through evaluating your dairy for possible risks or vulnerabilities and taking steps to eliminate or minimize those risks to safeguard your dairy. Effective biosecurity can help protect your farm against diseases or chemicals introduced via farm vehicles, service and delivery personnel and visitors, or through intentional acts. Although these measures will help protect against exotic diseases like foot and mouth, more importantly, they will help combat Johne's disease, salmonella, cryptosporidia, mycoplasma, and other organisms that are real and ongoing challenges to dairies.

## What Are the Benefits of a Biosecurity Program?

The events of September 11th caused us to seriously rethink security issues in general. Food producers across the nation are responding by reassessing security within their operations, and it makes good business sense for dairy producers to examine and enhance biosecurity on their farms. The intentional or unintentional introduction of diseases such as foot and mouth disease would be devastating to our livestock industry. Effective biosecurity will not only help protect your dairy against exotic diseases, toxins and chemicals, but also improve herd health and increase production.

## Who's Responsible for Biosecurity?

The producer is ultimately responsible for the biosecurity/security program that exists on their farm. No one knows the operation better than the producer. These programs require planning, commitment and education of all personnel in the operation. Producers must weigh the risks of a potential disease and its harm to people and animals against the costs of prevention. There is no "one size fits all" program, but there are guidelines available to assist producers in developing and implementing the program that will best protect their operation and investment.

## How Can I Start to Evaluate Biosecurity on My Dairy Farm?


Your veterinarian is your best resource for biosecurity advice. This guide also provides some basic tools to conduct a preliminary assessment of biosecurity on your farm. Additional information is available from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the California Dairy Quality Assurance Program.





## Site-Specific Solutions

Solutions should be dairy-specific; a reasonable solution for you may not be the best solution for another dairy. The dairy owner, with help from his/her veterinarian, can decide which biosecurity solutions or components are necessary to adequately protect the dairy. Dividing biosecurity into focus areas will help identify risks:

- **Traffic Flow**
  - **Milk-House and Parlor**
  - **Employees**
  - **Animals**
  - **Feed Storage and Water**
  - **Farm Chemicals**
  - **Emergency Reporting**
- 

## Traffic Flow

**Perimeter control** – Reduce the number of entry points via fencing or other means; post warning signs or install gates and locks.

**Vehicles** – Establish routes at your dairy that avoid animal areas and are specific to the business of the visitor or service person. Create parking areas that are away from animals, are easily maintained, and are well lit. Encourage visitors, service personnel and employees to arrive in clean vehicles.

**Service and Delivery** – Advise service and delivery personnel that you have a biosecurity program that they must follow while at your dairy.

**Visitors** – Inform visitors and government inspectors that you have a biosecurity policy with which they must comply and rules for travelers who have recently been abroad.

## Milk-House and Parlor

Secure or lock the bulk tank or milk-house. Limit access to the parlor area, particularly at night, and improve lighting in the area.

## Employees

Employees must follow and enforce your biosecurity guidelines and report visitors and anyone not complying. Employees responsible for using feed additives, livestock drugs or farm chemicals should have adequate training on their use and storage to prevent product misuse.

## Animals

Isolate and monitor the health of new animals prior to introducing them to the herd. Monitor herd health closely and promptly involve your veterinarian, or other resources including CDFA, if there are unusual signs of illness, production or consumption losses, sudden increases in illnesses or deaths.

Establish collection points for rendering trucks and haulers that are on the perimeter of the dairy and away from stock. Establish handling and processing practices that reduce the risk of spreading disease among production groups.

## Feed Storage and Water

Feed storage should not be easily seen or accessible to strangers. Rodent and wildlife contamination can be limited via resistant-storage methods. Wells and water sources should be protected from intentional tampering and accidental contamination by wastewater and manure.

## Chemical Storage

Farm chemicals, feed additives and livestock drugs should be stored in secured areas away from animals and feed.



## Emergency Reporting Procedures

Emergency phone numbers should be posted and employees should be trained on your emergency reporting procedures. Call your veterinarian or local CDFA Animal Health Office if you see unusual illnesses. For concerns about milk safety, call the CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Offices or your local milk inspector.

## CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Offices

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| ▪ Sacramento | 209-466-7186 |
| ▪ Oakland    | 510-622-4810 |
| ▪ Fresno     | 559-445-5506 |
| ▪ Ontario    | 909-923-9929 |

## CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| ▪ Sacramento (HQ) | 916-654-1447 |
| ▪ Modesto         | 209-491-9350 |
| ▪ Ontario         | 909-947-4462 |
| ▪ Redding         | 530-225-2140 |
| ▪ Tulare          | 559-685-3500 |

## Additional Resources for Developing a Biosecurity Program:

- Your veterinarian
- Dairy Quality Assurance Program  
Mike Payne, DVM, PhD 530-752-7507  
<http://www.cdqa.org>